

44: 8 - 111.1

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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(Public welfare recipients--  
SS numbers)

**NJSA:** 44:8-111.1

**LAWS OF:** 1994 **CHAPTER:** 147

**BILL NO:** A1649

**SPONSOR(S):** Vandervalk and Roma

**DATE INTRODUCED:** April 25, 1994

**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY:** Senior Citizens  
**SENATE:** ---

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** **ASSEMBLY:** September 12, 1994  
**SENATE:** October 20, 1994

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** December 2, 1994

**FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**SPONSOR STATEMENT:** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY:** Yes  
**SENATE:** No

**FISCAL NOTE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**MESSAGE ON SIGNING:** Yes

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

See newspaper clippings attached:

"State computers will seek interstate welfare cheaters," 12-3-94, Asbury Park Press."

"New law guards against welfare fraud," 12-3-94, Courier News.

"New law targets 'double dipping'," 12-3-94, Philadelphia Inquirer.

KBG:pp

P.L.1994, CHAPTER 147, approved December 2, 1994  
1994 Assembly No. 1649

1 AN ACT concerning recipients of general public assistance  
2 benefits and supplementing P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.).  
3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
5 State of New Jersey:

6 1. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a  
7 centralized registry in the Division of Family Development of the  
8 Department of Human Services to contain the names and Social  
9 Security numbers, and such additional identifying information as  
10 the commissioner deems appropriate, of recipients of benefits  
11 under the "General Public Assistance Law," P.L.1947, c.156  
12 (C.44:8-107 et seq.). Each of the municipal welfare agencies  
13 shall provide such information and assistance as the commissioner  
14 may request to carry out the provisions of this act. The  
15 commissioner shall provide for the periodic updating of the  
16 information contained in the registry.

17 2. a. The commissioner shall make the information in the  
18 centralized registry established pursuant to section 1 of this act  
19 available to those states which are contiguous to New Jersey and  
20 shall seek to establish an arrangement for the reciprocal  
21 provision of similar information from these states to the Division  
22 of Family Development.

23 b. The commissioner shall also provide for the use of the  
24 registry to conduct comparison checks of general public  
25 assistance recipient records between municipalities within the  
26 State, as well as comparison checks of general public assistance  
27 recipient records with those of recipients of aid to families with  
28 dependent children benefits under P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1 et  
29 seq.).

30 3. The commissioner shall report to the Governor and the  
31 Legislature no later than one year after the effective date of this  
32 act, and annually thereafter, on the actions taken to carry out  
33 the provisions of this act and the results thereof, and shall  
34 accompany that report with such recommendations for  
35 administrative or legislative actions as the commissioner deems  
36 appropriate.

37 4. The commissioner, pursuant to the "Administrative  
38 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt  
39 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

40 5. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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44 STATEMENT

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46 This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to  
47 establish a centralized registry in the Division of Family  
Development of the Department of Human Services containing

1 the names and Social Security numbers of recipients of general  
2 public assistance (GA) benefits under P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107  
3 et seq.), along with such other identifying information as the  
4 commissioner deems appropriate. Each of the municipal welfare  
5 agencies shall provide such information and assistance as the  
6 commissioner may request to establish and update the registry.  
7 The commissioner shall provide for the periodic updating of the  
8 information in the registry.

9 The bill further requires the commissioner to make the  
10 information in the centralized registry available to the states of  
11 New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and to seek to establish  
12 an arrangement for the reciprocal provision of similar  
13 information from these states to the Division of Family  
14 Development. The commissioner shall also provide for the use of  
15 the registry to conduct comparison checks of GA recipient  
16 records between municipalities within the State, as well as  
17 comparison checks of GA recipient records with those of aid to  
18 families with dependent children recipients.

19 Finally, the bill provides that the commissioner shall report to  
20 the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year after the  
21 effective date of the bill, and annually thereafter, on the actions  
22 taken to carry out the provisions of the bill and the results  
23 thereof, and shall include with the report any recommendations  
24 for administrative or legislative actions that the commissioner  
25 deems appropriate.

26 This bill is intended to preclude a recurrence of the recent  
27 incident involving 425 New Jersey residents who were found to  
28 have collected welfare (general assistance) payments in Newark  
29 and Manhattan, which represented 23% of the 1,800 welfare  
30 recipients included in a comparison of welfare rolls between the  
31 two jurisdictions. This incident prompted the Governor of New  
32 York to write to the governors of New Jersey, Pennsylvania,  
33 Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont to recommend that  
34 these states share the Social Security numbers of their welfare  
35 recipients. According to a New York Times article of March 3,  
36 1994, the First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City  
37 Human Resources Administration indicated that it is currently  
38 impossible to ascertain how many New Jersey residents are still  
39 receiving welfare payments in both states, although the same  
40 article reported that the director of the Division of Health and  
41 Welfare in Newark stated that her department had not yet  
42 uncovered any cases of New York residents receiving welfare  
43 payments in New Jersey.

44 New Jersey already matches its aid to families with dependent  
45 children (AFDC) recipient files with other states periodically to  
46 check for "double dipping," and the federal government assists in  
47 this effort. In addition, New Jersey has been able to match its  
48 GA recipient records with New York state wage information to  
49 make sure that a person working in that state is not collecting  
50 GA benefits here; however, to date, there has been no such  
51 interstate cross-checking to ensure that New Jersey GA  
52 recipients are not collecting benefits in New York or another  
53 state. The Department of Human Services recently automated  
54 its GA recipient records, and 83 municipalities in the State

1 (representing 85% of the Statewide GA caseload) have automated  
2 their records, which will facilitate the implementation of  
3 comparison checks by Social Security number between  
4 municipalities within the State, and between New Jersey and its  
5 neighboring states.

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10 Requires Commissioner of Human Services to share information  
11 with contiguous states regarding Social Security numbers of  
12 general public assistance recipients.

ASSEMBLY, No. 1649

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED APRIL 25, 1994

By Assemblywoman VANDERVALK and Assemblyman ROMA

1 AN ACT concerning recipients of general public assistance  
2 benefits and supplementing P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.).  
3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the  
5 State of New Jersey:

6 1. The Commissioner of Human Services shall establish a  
7 centralized registry in the Division of Family Development of the  
8 Department of Human Services to contain the names and Social  
9 Security numbers, and such additional identifying information as  
10 the commissioner deems appropriate, of recipients of benefits  
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12 (C.44:8-107 et seq.). Each of the municipal welfare agencies  
13 shall provide such information and assistance as the commissioner  
14 may request to carry out the provisions of this act. The  
15 commissioner shall provide for the periodic updating of the  
16 information contained in the registry.

17 2. a. The commissioner shall make the information in the  
18 centralized registry established pursuant to section 1 of this act  
19 available to those states which are contiguous to New Jersey and  
20 shall seek to establish an arrangement for the reciprocal  
21 provision of similar information from these states to the Division  
22 of Family Development.

23 b. The commissioner shall also provide for the use of the  
24 registry to conduct comparison checks of general public  
25 assistance recipient records between municipalities within the  
26 State, as well as comparison checks of general public assistance  
27 recipient records with those of recipients of aid to families with  
28 dependent children benefits under P.L.1959, c.86 (C.44:10-1 et  
29 seq.).

30 3. The commissioner shall report to the Governor and the  
31 Legislature no later than one year after the effective date of this  
32 act, and annually thereafter, on the actions taken to carry out  
33 the provisions of this act and the results thereof, and shall  
34 accompany that report with such recommendations for  
35 administrative or legislative actions as the commissioner deems  
36 appropriate.

37 4. The commissioner, pursuant to the "Administrative  
38 Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), shall adopt  
39 rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this act.

40 5. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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43 STATEMENT  
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47 Development of the Department of Human Services containing

1 the names and Social Security numbers of recipients of general  
2 public assistance (GA) benefits under P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107  
3 et seq.), along with such other identifying information as the  
4 commissioner deems appropriate. Each of the municipal welfare  
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41 Welfare in Newark stated that her department had not yet  
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44 New Jersey already matches its aid to families with dependent  
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46 check for "double dipping," and the federal government assists in  
47 this effort. In addition, New Jersey has been able to match its  
48 GA recipient records with New York state wage information to  
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51 interstate cross-checking to ensure that New Jersey GA  
52 recipients are not collecting benefits in New York or another  
53 state. The Department of Human Services recently automated  
54 its GA recipient records, and 63 municipalities in the State

1 (representing 85% of the Statewide GA caseload) have automated  
2 their records, which will facilitate the implementation of  
3 comparison checks by Social Security number between  
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5 neighboring states.

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10 Requires Commissioner of Human Services to share information  
11 with contiguous states regarding Social Security numbers of  
12 general public assistance recipients.

ASSEMBLY SENIOR CITIZENS AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 1649

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 13, 1994

The Assembly Senior Citizens and Social Services Committee favorably reports Assembly Bill No. 1649.

This bill requires the Commissioner of Human Services to establish a centralized registry in the Division of Family Development of the Department of Human Services containing the names and Social Security numbers of recipients of general public assistance (GA) benefits under P.L.1947, c.156 (C.44:8-107 et seq.), along with such other identifying information as the commissioner deems appropriate. Each of the municipal welfare agencies shall provide such information and assistance as the commissioner may request to establish and update the registry. The commissioner shall provide for the periodic updating of the information in the registry.

The bill further requires the commissioner to make the information in the centralized registry available to the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, and to seek to establish an arrangement for the reciprocal provision of similar information from these states to the Division of Family Development. The commissioner shall also provide for the use of the registry to conduct comparison checks of GA recipient records between municipalities within the State, as well as comparison checks of GA recipient records with those of aid to families with dependent children recipients.

Finally, the bill provides that the commissioner shall report to the Governor and the Legislature no later than one year after the effective date of the bill, and annually thereafter, on the actions taken to carry out the provisions of the bill and the results thereof, and shall include with the report any recommendations for administrative or legislative actions that the commissioner deems appropriate.

This bill is intended to preclude a recurrence of the recent incident involving 425 New Jersey residents who were found to have collected welfare (general assistance) payments in Newark and Manhattan, which represented 23% of the 1,800 welfare recipients included in a comparison of welfare rolls between the two jurisdictions. This incident prompted the Governor of New York to write to the governors of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont to recommend that these states share the Social Security numbers of their welfare recipients. According to a New York Times article of March 3, 1994, the First Deputy Commissioner of the New York City Human Resources Administration indicated that it is currently impossible to ascertain how many New Jersey residents are still receiving welfare payments in both states, although the same article reported that the director of the Division of Health and Welfare in Newark stated



that her department had not yet uncovered any cases of New York residents receiving welfare payments in New Jersey.

New Jersey already matches its aid to families with dependent children (AFDC) recipient files with other states periodically to check for "double dipping," and the federal government assists in this effort. In addition, New Jersey has been able to match its GA recipient records with New York state wage information to make sure that a person working in that state is not collecting GA benefits here; however, to date, there has been no such interstate cross-checking to ensure that New Jersey GA recipients are not collecting benefits in New York or another state. The Department of Human Services recently automated its GA recipient records, and 63 municipalities in the State (representing 85% of the Statewide GA caseload) have automated their records, which will facilitate the implementation of comparison checks by Social Security number between municipalities within the State, and between New Jersey and its neighboring states.

14/01  
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## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR NEWS RELEASE

**CN-001**

**Contact:**

CARL GOLDEN  
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**TRENTON, N.J. 08625**

**Release:** FRIDAY

DECEMBER 2, 1994

Gov. Christie Whitman today signed legislation to require the Department of Human Services to share information on recipients of general assistance welfare payments with neighboring states.

The bill, A-1649, was sponsored by Assemblywoman Charlotte Vandervalk and Assemblyman Patrick Roma, both R-Bergen.

The legislation requires the Commissioner of the Department to compile a registry of general assistance recipients and to share the data with officials in New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware.

The reciprocal arrangement is designed to uncover instances of fraud in which an individual may be receiving welfare benefits in more than one state.

The Governor also signed legislation to establish a 27-member Task Force on New Jersey History to study the state's past and develop recommendations for promotional, tourism, and preservation efforts.

The legislation, A-620, was sponsored by Assemblywoman Maureen Ogden, R-Essex, and Assemblyman Richard Bagger, R-Middlesex.